



## **AVERY FIRE**

**W.H. Rock's Crew**

[72. Oscar Weigert](#) [\\$15.00](#)

---

## **STEVENS PEAK FIRE**

**James Danielson, Forest Guard, in Charge.**

[63. Walter Beamair \(Walter Beaman\)](#) [\\$ 6.00](#)

*Excerpt from the collection "When The Mountains Roared", (page 84 – 85), US Forest Service*

**AVERY FIRE**

W.H. Rock's Crew

**72. OSCAR WEIGERT.**

Residence of his mother, Mrs. Weigert, Missoula, Montana. Effects, consisting of clothes, cartridges, gun, tobacco, cigarette papers, etc., sent to his mother, Mrs. Weigert, at Missoula. Amount due paid to his mother Voucher #1503. Mr. Weigert, apparently thinking that he would be burned to death, committed suicide on the evening of the big fire. The crew Mr. Weigert was with, however, had ample reason to feel that they were in absolute safety, owing to the fact that they were on an area which had received a very hard burn the day before.

The men referred to in this report, although directly supervised by the man in charge of the crew, were all indirectly under my supervision, and up to August 20 and 21, when the great conflagration took place, I was in direct communication with these men either by telephone or messenger every day.

Our object in view in employing these men was to put out the numerous forest fires in the region. Their duties were clear off a fire line about eight feet wide by an advance crew cutting the brush, followed by a crew with mattocks and shovels who would dig off the surface so that the mineral soil would be exposed. This line was always made sufficiently far in advance of the main fire to enable the men in charge to back fire from this fire line so that a space would be burned sufficiently wide between the fire line constructed and the main fire to stop the progress of the advancing fire when it reached this burned space. This system is usually very effective and would have been in this case had it not been for the abnormal conditions.

A camp is always established within a reasonable distance of the fire, so that the men from different parts of the fire line can reach the camp at meal time and in the evening. If conditions are such that it is too far from the camp to where the men are working, provisions are cooked and packed in pails to where the men are working. If water is too far distant canvas bags in connection with pack horses are used to carry water to the men.

There are no claims against the Government at the present time for the death of any of the men who perished on August 20 and 21, 1910, with the exception of the amounts due the men for labor at the time of their death, and in very few cases has this been requested, but we have done everything in our power to learn the location of the friends of these men so that the amount due them might be turned over to the proper parties.

I am herewith enclosing a map of the Coeur d' Alene National Forest showing the location where the men perished, and a few photographs to illustrate the severity of the wind and fire.

Very truly yours,  
/s/ W. G. Wiegler  
Forest Supervisor.

*Excerpt from the collection "When The Mountains Roared", (page 121-122), US Forest Service*

STEVENS PEAK FIRE  
James Danielson, Forest Guard, in Charge.

**63. WALTER BEAMAIR.**

Buried on Boulder Creek above Mullan. In Danielson's crew. Body taken by father J. M. Bernair, of Sunset, Washington.

Time

Aug. 19 – 12 hours

20 – 12

24 hours, \$6.00 amount due.

*Excerpt from the collection "When The Mountains Roared", (page 116), US Forest Service*